GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6170
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
PRODUCTION OF SANDALWOOD
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any statistical data on the production of sandalwood trees in our country;

(b) if so, the details of the past five years, State-wise;

(c) whether India is the largest producer of sandalwood in the world;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up more sandal tree growers in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed during the last five years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a)&(b) Sandalwood is mainly found in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. State-wise statistical data on the production of sandalwood in these States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e) Raising plantation of sandalwood on large scale has not been successful and the past experience in raising sandalwood artificially has not proved better than natural regeneration. At present, augmentation of sandalwood areas by promoting natural regeneration, tending works including bush sowing and protection of selected areas are being undertaken by the State Governments.